

The Vocabulary of Appeal by Joyce Saricks

Pacing

- breakneck
- engrossing
- fast paced
- relaxed
- unhurried

Characters

- familiar
- multiple points of view
- quirky
- realistic
- well developed

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Story line

- action oriented
- character centered
- violent
- gentle
- open-ended
- thought-provoking
- tragic

Atmosphere/Tone

- darker tone
- edgy
- hard edged
- humorous
- magical
- romantic
- suspenseful

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Name _____

Class _____

Reading Survey

This survey was created by K. Blair and O. Nesi with thanks in part to information consulted from: Saricks, Joyce G. *Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library*. 3rd Ed. Chicago: American Library Association. 2005.

Think about books you've read that you've really enjoyed. Keep these books in mind as you complete this survey.

1. What is most important to you in a story? Check all that apply:
_____ the pace at which the story moves
_____ the characters
_____ the storyline (the way the story unfolds)
_____ the tone, in other words the general atmosphere created by the book

2. What was the last book you really loved? List two things that you loved most.

3. What was the last book you read that you really disliked? List two things that you disliked most.

Pacing

I **prefer** stories that are (check only one):

_____ leisurely paced, unhurried and relaxed.

_____ fast – paced.

Characterization

I **prefer** characters that are (Check only one):

_____ realistic, recognizable, relatable and familiar.

_____ unique, eccentric and quirky.

_____ thoughtful and self-aware.

Story Line

I **prefer** stories that (check only one):

_____ have a character-centered, interior or psychological approach.

_____ are centered around events and plot.

_____ have unexpected story lines, plot twists and turns.

Atmosphere / Tone: The feel of a novel

I **prefer** stories that have a (check only one):

_____ scary, foreboding and ominous tone.

_____ heartwarming and touching tone.

_____ comic, funny and upbeat tone.

_____ sad and depressing tone.

_____ suspenseful, nerve-racking tone.

Questions to consider. Check either yes or no. Not both.

Question	Yes	No
• I like books with more dialogue than description/inner thoughts		
• I like books with short sentences and/or short paragraphs.		
• I like books with short chapters.		
• I like stories that focus on one character.		
• I like stories that focus on multiple characters whose lives are intertwined.		
• I like stories that are told from one narrator's point of view.		
• I like stories told from multiple points of view.		
• I like secondary characters that impact a story.		
• I like stories that emphasize characters.		
• I like stories that focus on situations and events.		
• I like stories that are dramatic and dark.		
• I like stories that are inviting and cozy.		
• I like stories that are edgy and agitated.		

On the back of this page, tell me about some of your favorite characters from books.

CAVALLARO IS HOOKED ON READING!



Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Circle the adjectives that best describe the various appeal terms of your book:

The pace is: breakneck engrossing fast paced relaxed unhurried

other: _____

The characters are (or the characterization is): familiar multiple points of view

quirky realistic well developed **other:** _____

The story line is: action oriented character centered violent gentle open-ended

thought-provoking tragic **other:** _____

The atmosphere/tone is: dark edgy hard-edged humorous magical romantic

suspenseful **other:** _____

The special feature (s) of this book is (are): _____

CAVALLARO IS HOOKED ON READING!



Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Use adjectives to describe the various appeal terms of your book:

The pace is _____

The characters are (or the characterization is) _____

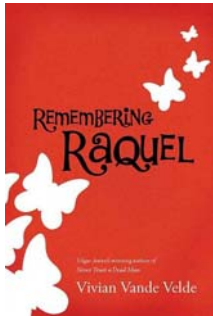
The story line is _____

The atmosphere/tone is _____

The special feature (s) of this book is (are) _____

Fig. 1 – Sample Hooks

CAVALLARO IS HOOKED ON READING!!



Title: *Remembering Raquel*

Author: Vivian Vande Velde

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Here's the Hook:

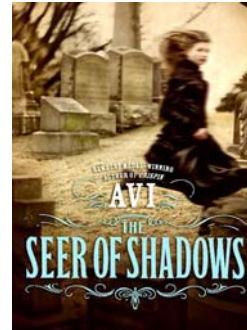
How did fourteen-year-old Raquel Falcone die? Was she accidentally or purposely pushed in front of an on-coming car? Did she lose her footing and fall down under it? Or, did she step in front of it on purpose? Told from the points of view of the people in her life, this quick read is full of small plot shifts and surprising plot twists, each packing a major emotional punch.

Three words or phrases that best describe this book are:

- Psychological tone
- Multiple points of view characterization
- Engrossing pace

Name: Miss Nesi (January, 2009)

CAVALLARO IS HOOKED ON READING!!



Title: *The Seer of Shadows*

Author: Avi

Genre: Historical Fiction/Ghost Story

Here's the Hook:

The year is 1872 and 14-year-old Horace Carpentine is apprenticed to a photographer in New York City. Little does he know that he will soon discover a special talent he has for creating living ghosts through the process of taking and developing photographs. Join him on his spine tingling, hair raising adventures as he gives “life” once again to a dead, abused little girl named Eleanora. In this gripping tale of ghostly vengeance, the pages keep turning – nearly outside of your own power.

Three words or phrases that best describe this book are:

- Steady pace
- Spooky/foreboding tone
- Nail-bitingly suspenseful story line

Name: Miss Nesi (November, 2008)